

ABOUT US

Our Mission

Established in 2016, our mission is to provide emotional support and solace to the family and friends of fellow firefighters and first responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty; foster goodwill towards Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, the Edmonton Firefighters' Union, the City of Edmonton, and its citizens through community and charity events; provide dignity, honor, and pride to Edmonton Fire Rescue Services & IAFF Local 209 through ceremonies and functions while out in the community, while building and maintaining the tradition and spirit of the firefighter.

Context

The heartfelt and emotional sound of the bagpipes has a powerful and reflective resonance with so many, calling to attention the thoughts and feelings linked by a moment or in memory of an individual. Both haunting and beautiful, yet strong and all-encompassing, having our empathic and proud pipers and drummers play at a funeral is a wonderful tribute to a loved one. Pipes and Drums in the fire service, a tradition used to honour our fallen, is a two-century-old tradition here in North America.

At the Edmonton Firefighters Piping and Drumming Society, we understand the heartache of losing someone dear to you, and our pipers and drummers always go the extra mile to provide a fitting send-off to the colleagues we love and cherish.

It is not a requirement to have our group at your loved one's funeral, but simply an option as per your family's and loved one's wishes.

The following info is to assist you in planning a service for your loved one and to help streamline information gathering and to limit the number of people you need to be in contact with in this solemn planning.

Struggling with grief?
Telus Health has great resources
1-855-789-7289



Donations to the Edmonton Firefighters Piping and Drumming Society are welcomed, and tax receipts are provided. As a registered charity, no service charges are imposed. If you wish, donations can be made via cheque, cash, or wire transfer.

Our mailing address is #200, 7024-101 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta T6A 0H7.

REGISTERED CHARITY
#78074 9933 RR0002

Let us know what you would like for the service

CONTACT

info@effpipesdrums.ca

Website: effpipesdrums.ca
Facebook: Edmonton Firefighters Piping and Drumming Society
Instagram: [edmonton_fire_pandd](https://www.instagram.com/edmonton_fire_pandd)



EDMONTON FIREFIGHTERS

PIPING AND DRUMMING SOCIETY

Information on Funerals & Memorials for Families

OUR SERVICES

We offer our services for:

- Line of Duty Death, all first responders.
- Active members / Non LODD, all first responders
- Retired first responders
- Immediate family of a first responder

Who can we send from the band to support your loved one's service? This will depend on the personal wishes of the family or the individual, as well as the level of funeral service determined by our fire service protocols. Here are several options available:

- Solo Piper: A single piper
- Mini Band: Typically consisting of 1 to 3 pipers and 1 to 2 drummers (This is fully dependent on our members availability)
- Massed Band: Involves two or more full bands from various departments, including our own; reserved for Line of Duty Deaths

There may be instances where a family requests a full honors funeral when it may not be warranted according to fire department traditions and protocols. It is essential to communicate sensitively that the full level of tribute from the Pipes and Drums is reserved for firefighters or first responders who are "lost in the line of duty while responding at an emergency." This ensures that the ultimate sacrifice made during such emergencies is recognized appropriately. Please be aware that additional information may be provided to the family by EFRS / Local 209, the Department Chaplain, and the Edmonton Firefighters Honour Guard regarding these services.

Examples of a Funeral Schedule / When Should We Play?:

Most funeral homes are very versed in the following formats, and we can work with the Funeral Director or Religious Leader and Honour Guard on executing the following options. There may be more options pertaining to an Active Member Traumatic LODD service. This will be communicated as required.

- Play as the funeral coach or selected caisson arrives at the funeral home. (Stationary)
- Pipe casket or urn into the venue and/or to the front of the service area (Stationary or March; if marching, we can lead the family and/or loved one.)
- Play at any time during the service. (Stationary)
- Pipe casket, urn, and immediate family out of the venue and/or loading of the loved one into the funeral coach or selected caisson. (Stationary or March leading the family or loved one.)
- Pipe as family and friends gather at the gravesite. (Stationary)
- Pipe during a selected time within the graveside service. (Stationary or March)

Any other requests can be brought forward for review. The most requested option is to play at the start of the service and at the end. Last alarm services typically have "Amazing Grace" played for the fallen.

Tune Suggestions:

If you are unsure of the types of tunes that are appropriate for this solemn occasion, the Edmonton Firefighters Piping & Drumming Society is happy to recommend tunes for you. Here are some of the most frequently played tunes. You can also request tunes to be played by the band or solo piper; however, the bagpipe is limited to 9 notes, so some tunes may not be possible to play, and we may not have any members available to play certain tunes as requested. If you have any specific requests, please allow some time for us to prepare accordingly. Many of the tunes listed below are very common and respectfully played for fallen first responders. If you have any other requests, let us know. All of the following tunes can be looked up on YouTube to give you a sense of the tune.

Please note: Cold weather also has a large impact on our bagpipes. Freezing weather at times may not allow us to play outdoors. Please contact us for options. We have typically struggled to play efficiently and accurately with temperatures below 0°C. Wind chill also plays a factor.

Amazing Grace
Going Home
Dawning of the Day
The Parting Glass
Flowers Of The Forest - solo piper only at this time
Highland Cathedral
Green Hills / When the Battle's Over / Balmoral
Scotland the Brave / Rowan Tree / Wings